

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 AF-06 NEA-09 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01

INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-05 BIB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /093 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 865

INFO ALL CSCE CAPITALS 249

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1167

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: SWEDISH PROPOSAL FOR WORKING GROUP ON STAGE III

1. SUMMARY: SWEDISH DELEGATION, SUPPORTED BY OTHER NEUTRALS AND SOVIET BLOC, PROPOSED FEB 20 THAT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CC) ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP ON ORGANIZATION OF STAGE III. EC-9 ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THAT ORGANIZATION OF FINAL DOCUMENTS AND STAGE III SHOULD NOW BE DISCUSSED, BUT PREFERRED TO CONSIDER MATTER FURTHER IN CC BEFORE TAKING DECISION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP. THIS TELEGRAM IS SENT IMMEDIATE BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND THAT A REUTERS DISPATCH ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED THAT CC HAD DIRECTED NEUTRALS TO BEGIN PREPARING THE THIRD STAGE. END SUMMARY.

2. AT CC FEB 20, SWEDISH DELEGATION, REFERRING TO IDEAS FLOATED EARLIER BY OTHER DELEGATIONS, (SEE GENEVA 1013) FORMALLY PROPOSED THAT CC ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP ON ORGANIZATION OF FINAL DOCUMENTS AND STAGE III, TO BEGIN DURING THE NEXT CONFERENCE WORK SCHEDULE PERIOD, WHICH STARTS MARCH 10. SWEDES WERE SUPPORTED BY VIRTUALLY ALL NEUTRALS AND SOVIET BLOC. IRISH DEL, SPEAKING FOR EC-9, AND SUPPORTED BY ITALY AND FRG, SAID HE AGREED CSCE SHOULD OPEN DISCUSSION OF THESE SUBJECTS AT AN EARLY DATE BUT QUESTIONED WHETHER FORUM AND TIMING PROPOSED BY SWEDES WAS APPROPRIATE. IRISH
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PROPOSED THAT CC ITSELF CONSIDER THIS QUESTION FURTHER, AND THAT

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS OF CC BE SCHEDULED FOR THIS PURPOSE. IRISH SUGGESTED THAT CC BE ALLOTTED TWO MEETINGS PER WEEK FROM MARCH 10 (IN CONTRAST TO PRESENT SCHEDULE OF ONE CC MEETING EVERY 2 WEEKS) AND THAT IF A DECISION WAS TAKEN TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP ON STAGE III, THESE MEETINGS COULD BE USED BY THE WORKING GROUP.

3. LONG DEBATE FOLLOWED WITH SOVIET PRESSING HARD FOR SOME COMMITMENT TO A WORKING GROUP. EVENTUAL COMPROMISE SOLUTION WAS TO ASK FOUR NEUTRALS (AUSTRIA, FINLAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND) WHICH NORMALLY PREPARE THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE TO BEAR CC DISCUSSION IN MIND WHEN THEY PREPARE SCHEDULE FOR PERIOD BEGINNING MARCH 10. PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THAT EXTRA MEETINGS WILL BE RESERVED FOR CC FROM MARCH 10 FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION, WITH IMPLICIT AGREEMENT THAT, WHEN CC AGREES, A WORKING GROUP WILL USE THESE MEETINGS TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION.

4. BENEATH SURFACE OF THIS ISSUE WAS SOVIET DESIRE TO ESTABLISH WORKING GROUP ON STAGE III AS EVIDENCE OF FORWARD MOMENTUM IN STAGE II, WHILE MAJORITY OF NINE, DISAPPOINTED BY LACK OF PROGRESS ON CBMS, WERE RELUCTANT TO CONVEY IMPRESSION THAT STAGE II WAS MOVING ALONG SATISFACTORILY.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A REUTERS DISPATCH DATED GENEVA FEB 20 REPORTED THAT CC HAD DIRECTED FOUR NEUTRALS TO BEGIN PREPARATION OF STAGE III. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES HERE, WE HAVE SIMPLY EXPLAINED THE FACTUAL SITUATION, AS SET OUT ABOVE. DALE

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